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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/401,382

Applicant(s)

HSU ET AL.

Examiner

Almari Romero

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 September 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 9/22/99 and IDS filed on 6/25/02.
2. Claims 1-26 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 7, 9, 18, 20, and 26 are independent claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The reference Hall, W., "Ending the Tyranny of the Button" cited in the information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 6/25/02 was not considered because the right margin on pages 60, 62, 64, 66, and 68 of the reference was truncated during the photocopy process. Applicant is advised to re-submit reference to be considered.
4. The PCT International Search Report was submitted on 6/25/02, however, was not cited in the information disclosure statement (IDS). Applicant is advised to cite the PCT Search Report in an information disclosure statement (IDS) to be considered.
5. Referring to the references cited in the Specification on page 2, lines 10-15, page 3, lines 26-29, and page 16, lines 5-7, Applicant is advised to submit references and cite references in an information disclosure statement (IDS) to be properly considered.

Specification

6. The disclosure is objected to because on page 9, line 30 - page 10, line 2 cites a co-pending related application, Applicant is advised to place cited application in the section "Cross-

References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11 and to insert related application serial number and the status of the application, if allowed or in patent prosecution. Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

7. The drawings filed on 9/22/99 are objected to as indicated in the attached PTO-948 form. Formal corrected drawings can be filed at allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 1-17 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: the essential elements to perform the function of hyperlinking, such as, identifying sources and destinations, generating and managing links and activating links to retrieve documents.

10. Regarding claim 26, all word(s) are preceded by word "means", in an attempt to use a "means" clause to recite a claim element as a means for performing a specified function. However, since no function is specified by the word(s) preceding "means", it is impossible to determine the equivalents of the element, as required by **35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph**. See *Ex parte Klumb*, 159 USPQ 694 (Bd. App. 1967).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

11. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-26 are lacking nonfunctional descriptive material and lacking physical structures or materials comprising of hardware or a combination of hardware and software within the technological arts (i.e. a computer) to produce a “useful, concrete and tangible” result.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. **Claim 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodkin et al. (USPN 6,092,074 – filing date: 02/1998) in view of Liu et al. (USPN 5,794,257 – filing date 08/1998).**

Regarding independent claim 1, Rodkin et al. (Rodkin) discloses:

A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising:

source-level partial hyperlinking (on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage);

source-level dynamic hyperlinking (on col. 2, lines 42-58 and col. 3, lines 26-34: teaches dynamic linking);

static hyperlinking (on col. 2, lines 17-29 and lines 42-58: teaches static linking)

However, Rodkin does not explicitly disclose, “intermediate links” and “incremental hyperlinking”.

Liu et al. (Liu) on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links (intermediate links) and on col. 2, lines 6-14: teaches hyperlink incrementally.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin to provide a way to chain links and link incrementally during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

14. **Claims 2-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodkin and Liu as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Sotomayor (USPN 5,708,825 – issued on 01/1998), and further in view of Chang (USPN 5,694,594 – issued on 12/1997). Regarding dependent claim 2, Rodkin and Liu disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Rodkin discloses:**

wherein said source-level partial hyperlinking comprises: an initial semi-link generator (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage).

However, Rodkin and Liu do not disclose “a source identifier” and “a source anchor generator”.

Sotomayor on col. 1, lines 59-65: teaches identifying source of hyperlink, on col. 6, lines 7-17 and lines 31-40: teaches source anchor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sotomayor into Rodkin-Liu to provide a way to identify

source of the hyperlink and to generate source anchors for automatically generating hyperlink in which will enhance the browsing of hyperlinks over the network.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose “link management”.

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link manager to manage within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 3, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a link browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing); and

a document browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link browser and document browser within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 4, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Liu discloses:

an intermediate destination identifier (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links (intermediate links) from identifying destination);

a destination identifier (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches identifying destination address).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a way to chain links and identifying the destination during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose "final link generator".

Chang on col. 6, lines 52-65: teaches final link generation.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide final link generation during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to interactively complete the generation of links.

Regarding dependent claim 5, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Liu discloses:

an intermediate anchor generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links) which link my comprise anchor);

an intermediate link generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a way to generate chain links with anchors during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

Regarding dependent claim 6, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses:

a link database (Chang on col. 9, lines 50-56: teaches link database).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link database for storing links during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document which will provide an efficient hypertext system associating hypertext links with stored attributes.

Regarding independent claim 7, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Rodkin discloses:

A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising:

an initial semi-link generator (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage); and

a source identifier, a source anchor generator (Sotomayor on col. 1, lines 59-65: teaches identifying source of hyperlink, on col. 6, lines 7-17 and lines 31-40: teaches generating source anchor).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sotomayor into Rodkin-Liu-Chang to provide a way to identify source of the hyperlink and to generate source anchors for automatically generating hyperlink in which will enhance the browsing of hyperlinks over the network.

However, Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose "link management".

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link

manager to manage within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claims 8 and 17, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses:

- a link browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing); and
- a document browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link browser and document browser within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding independent claim 9, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Sotomayor discloses:

A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising:

- a source identifier, source anchor generator (Sotomayor on col. 1, lines 59-65: teaches identifying source of hyperlink, on col. 6, lines 7-17 and lines 31-40: teaches source anchor).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Sotomayor into Rodkin-Liu-Chang to provide a way to identify source of the hyperlink and to generate source anchors for automatically generating hyperlink in which will enhance the browsing of hyperlinks over the network.

- an intermediate destination identifier (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches chain links (intermediate links) from identifying destination);

a destination identifier (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches identifying destination address).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a way to chain links and identifying the destination during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose “final link generator”.

Chang on col. 6, lines 52-65: teaches final link generation.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide final link generation during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to interactively complete the generation of links.

However, Rodkin, Liu, and Sotomayor do not explicitly disclose “link management”.

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link manager to manage within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 10, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Liu discloses:

an intermediate anchor generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links) which link my comprise anchor);

an intermediate link generator (Liu on col. 4, line 62- col. 5, lines 4: teaches generating chain links (intermediate links)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a way to generate chain links with anchors during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document in order to enhance the creation of hyperlinks in an automatic hyperlinking system.

Regarding dependent claim 11, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses “link management”:

Chang on col. 6, lines 25-51: teaches link manager.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link manager to manage within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 12, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Chang discloses:

a link database (Chang on col. 9, lines 50-56: teaches link database).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link database for storing links during the automatic hyperlinking process of a document which will provide an efficient hypertext system associating hypertext links with stored attributes.

Regarding dependent claim 13, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the claimed invention substantially as described *supra*. However, Rodkin discloses:

an initial, intermediate, and final semi-link generator (Rodkin on col. 6, lines 15-35: teaches finding best destination address for linkage to generate linkable character string).

Regarding dependent claim 14, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a link browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 7: teaches link browsing); and

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link browser within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 15, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. Chang discloses:

a document browser (Chang on col. 3, line 62 - col. 4, line 7: teaches document browser).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Chang into Rodkin-Liu-Sotomayor to provide a link browser within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to facilitate the user to interactively and dynamically perform automatic link generation.

Regarding dependent claim 16, Rodkin, Liu, Sotomayor, and Chang disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Rodkin, Sotomayor, and Chang do not explicitly disclose “link interpreter”.

Liu on col. 2, lines 65-67: teaches link interpreter.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu into Rodkin-Sotomayor-Chang to provide a link

interpreter within an automatic hyperlink generation system in order to perform proper actions when user clicks on a hyperlink.

Regarding claims 17 - 25, the limitations of claims 17 - 26 are a method for processing in the system of claims 2 -16 and are rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 26, the limitations of independent claim 26 comprises the same limitations of claims 2 -16 and is rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


USPN 5,995,099 – Horstmann – filed on 06/1996

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almari Romero whose telephone number is (703) 305-5945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays - Fridays (7:30am - 4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

AR
November 15, 2002


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